This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-129 (Cancelled).

Claim 130 (new): A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 131 (new): The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside is a pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 132 (new): The method of claim 130, wherein the nucleoside is a purine nucleoside.

Claim 133 (new) The method of claim 130 wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is administered in combination or alternation with a second anti-hepatitis C agent.

Claim 134 (new): The method of claim 133, wherein second agent is selected from the group consisting of interferon, ribavirin, a protease inhibitor, a thiazolidine derivative, a polymerase inhibitor, and a helicase inhibitor.

Claim 135 (new): The method of claim 134, wherein the second agent is interferon.

Claim 136 (new): The method of claim 134, wherein the second agent is ribavirin.

Claim 137 (new): The method of claim 130, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit.

Claim 138 (new): The method of claim 137, wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg of the β-D-2'methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside.

Claim 139 (new): The method of claim 137, wherein said dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 140 (new): The method of claim 130, wherein the host is a human.

Claim 141 (new): The method of claim 130, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is in substantially pure form.

Claim 142 (new): The method of claim 141, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

Claim 143 (new): The method of claim 141, wherein the β-D-2'-methyl-ribofuranosyl nucleoside is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.